

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, lines 15-30 with the following amended paragraph (insertions are underlined, deletions are in ~~strikethrough~~):**

Purgatives developed to date for orthostatic lavage to clean the bowel of faecal matter prior to colonoscopy have taken the form of either and isotonic, large volume lavage (e.g. Braintree's Golytely) or more hypertonic lavage products such as Fleet's sodium phosphate or sodium picosulfate (Picolax) products. The former generally cause little homeostatic disturbance or intra-vascular sodium and other electrolytes or fluid shifts because of their isotonic nature, which minimizes electrolyte absorption/secretion by the presence of high molecular weight polyethylene glycol (PEG mw 3350). However, these preparations have recently been reported to be associated with hyponatremia (~~Clemens Cohen~~ Clemens Cohen D.C., *et al.*, *Lancet* 357(9252): 282-283 (2001)). Products with sodium phosphate and sodium picosulfate are felt to be better tolerated (~~Jayanthi V Fincher~~ Fincher RK, *et al.*, *Am. J. Gastroenterol.* 94(8): 2122-7 (1999)). However, these products have also been associated with a significant hypo-osmolar state and electrolyte imbalance, particularly hyponatremia. This, to a large extent, is contributed to by a loss of electrolytes through the resultant ~~diarrhoea~~ diarrhea caused by the lavage with concomitant replacement of this loss by water (without electrolytes) leading to hyponatremia and water intoxication associated with a hypo-osmolar state.

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, lines 4-8 with the following amended paragraph (insertions are underlined):**

The composition of the invention may be used for colonoscopic lavage, as a simple purgative or in electrolyte replacement therapy. The composition may be used with one or more known purgatives and in that case will complement the purgative effect of the other purgative(s) and thus reduce the amount required of these purgative agents. For example a composition of the present invention may be administered with a half dose of Fleet, or a reduced number of Picoprep capsules.